

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 20, 2001 LB 432A, 827

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 432A.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 432A does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 827 is a bill introduced by Senator Bromm. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 17, referred to the Transportation Committee. Bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0499, Legislative Journal page 716.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, you're recognized to open on LB 827.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I am pleased to bring LB 827 to the floor. In my opening, I'd like to make some comments about the policy issues involved and the general, I think, decisions that this body needs to be concerned about with respect to telecommunications and expansion of high-speed, broadband telecommunications in the state. And then, on the committee amendment portion, I will go into the specifics more of the bill because the committee amendment actually becomes the bill. Over the course of the last several years, this state has been looking and watching and trying to develop the proper policy for telecommunications. We have, in several instances, increased the authority oversight and the ability to umpire controversies on the part of the Public Service Commission. We have loaded them with a considerable amount of additional work when it comes to looking at interconnection agreements, when it comes to establishing fair rates and the powers to...to have the authority to regulate those kinds of agreements and transactions. However, looming over us while we're doing that and after the implementation of the '96 Telecommunications Act, I think we all know that there's been an explosion of interest in using the Internet and in developing high-speed, large-volume use of the Internet. It has...it has practical implications throughout Nebraska, which includes telemedicine for our medical facilities. As we go out in the state of Nebraska we have centers like Grand Island and